

From: [Downham, Todd](#)
To: [Coltrain, Katrina](#)
Subject: FW: FYI
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:04:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

See response to Ms. Clark below

Todd Downham

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Site Remediation Section

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todd.downham@deq.ok.gov



From: Downham, Todd

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:21 PM

To: McElhaney, Skylar

Subject: RE: FYI

The fourth paragraph, 1st sentence: EPA sampled yards, not DEQ.

Looks good otherwise

Thank you

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From: McElhaney, Skylar

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 12:14 PM

To: Gray David

Cc: Downham, Todd

Subject: FYI

The Superfund investigation process is iterative; it begins with assessment of land use, population, and historical information about operations of a facility and their waste practices. Many Superfund sites were operational and defunct long before the existence of environmental regulation. Following the initial assessment, EPA determines if the site should continue in the Superfund process. Much of that decision is based on the land use assessment and the potential for exposure to people.

After that sampling investigations are performed to better understand what, if anything, may be present from historical operations. The benchmark that EPA uses in this phase is whether contaminants are 3 times above background, at a minimum. Additional investigations may follow to better define the type and concentration of

contaminants that may pose risk to people and/or the environment. If the answer is yes, then the site may be proposed for a Superfund site. The potential for risk does not mean that there is an actual exposure, only the potential for exposure. The Superfund program is designed to act on potential exposure; in cases where the potential for exposure is imminent, EPA has authorities to take actions to remove those exposures. In the case of Wilcox, fencing off areas to restrict access and thus exposure, is considered removing the potential for risk.

The Wilcox site was investigated in 1994 based on information that a former refinery operated in the area. The site did not rank for Superfund listing. In the early 2000's, the land use changed when the former refinery was developed for residential housing. DEQ responded to a call from a concerned citizen in 2005 about the situation and initiated the Superfund investigation process again, by updating the land use assessment. After these investigational assessments were completed, the EPA scored the site using the Superfund mathematical model for evaluating exposure pathways. The site scored high enough to be proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL), was proposed for listing in the federal register and was included as a Superfund site in 2013. This part of the process requires announcement in the federal register and the opportunity for public comment.

After the site was listed on the NPL, the DEQ and EPA sampled residential yards to determine the potential for exposure. No immediate threats were identified, with the exception of two areas that were fenced off by EPA to restrict access and remove the potential for exposure. DEQ and EPA also sampled private drinking water wells and found that the water is safe to drink. DEQ and EPA have routinely monitored these wells to ensure they continue to be safe to drink.

The EPA and DEQ are currently working on expanded investigation of the site to get more detailed information about the site so that a plan can be developed for the best way to clean it up. This work will continue this spring and summer.

DEQ and EPA are committed to community awareness and have held 4 open house meetings to share information about the site and the Superfund process with the community. DEQ also continues to provide information to residents, on request, and to keep them up to date on planned activities.

Thanks,

Skyler McElhaney

(405) 702-7167

From: Clark, Janna (CMG-TulsaTV) [<mailto:jclark@fox23.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:58 PM

To: Hatfield, Erin E.

Subject: RE: Wilcox Media Inquiry

"DEQ and EPA have cautioned residents on the Wilcox Superfund Site about potential risks that may be on site."

You mention potential risk, but in a March 1999 an EPA SA report shows: BTEX, PAHs, TPH, and metals were detected in soil samples and low pH values were noted in several samples as well. PAHs and metals were detected in sediment samples.

A September 2010 ODEQ ESI report says: Metals above what was considered background and SVOCs were detected in waste and soil samples.

These are just a couple examples of many we read that don't seem like a potential but an actual risk.

If this site is on the NPL, would that not in and of itself deem a threat to human health

and/or a concern about the documented contaminants that exist on this site?

The EPA's open summary of findings shows nine different assessment/inspection reports since 1994.

How many assessments, inspections, etc., still need to be performed?

At what point would this site be deemed a threat or not?

At what point would you suggest people not live on the site?

"One area with elevated lead and another area with a large amount of waste material was fenced off to prevent access to those areas. Fencing is a temporary measure until those areas can be permanently addressed."

You mentioned fencing off certain areas to keep traffic out. How does this control erosion and surface runoff into Sand Creek, where known contamination has been documented to exist since Roy F. Weston's ESI report in 1997?

Are there plans to address this in the near future? If so, when?

When does the DEQ/EPA plan to return to this site, and what is the next step?

Thank you for your response.

Janna